

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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P R 311435Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6408
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (DAMASCAS OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IS
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT FORMATION: BEGIN DECLARES ALL ISSUES OPEN FOR
DISCUSSION; SHARON RETURNS TO THE LIKUD

REF: TEL AVIV 3809

1. IN A PROMPT REPLY TO YIGAEI YADIN'S REQUEST FOR
CLARIFICATION OF THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED MAY 29 BY THE
LIKUD EXECUTIVE ON THE DAYAN APPOINTMENT (REFTEL),
MANAHEM BEGIN DECLARED TODAY THAT EVERYTHING CONCERNING
THE FORMATION OF THE NEXT GOVERNMENT IS OPEN TO DISCUSSION,
INCLUDING THE CHOICE OF MINISTERS. HE ADDED THAT POLICY
AND APPOINTMENTS WOULD HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE FULL
COALITION.

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2. BEGIN'S STATEMENT RESPONDED TO A LETTER YADIN SENT
YESTERDAY ASKING WHETHER ALL ISSUES REGARDING THE
PROSPECTIVE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES, OPERATION, AND
COMPOSITION WOULD BE OPEN TO COALITION NEGOTIATIONS.
YADIN HAD ALSO REQUESTED ASSURANCES THAT NO UNILATERAL
DECISIONS WOULD BE MADE PENDING COMPLETION OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS.

3. IN A MEETING LAST NIGHT, THE DMC'S 120-MEMBER COUNCIL (EQUIVALENT TO WHAT MOST ISRAELI PARTIES CALL "CENTRAL COMMITTEE") HAD APPROVED YADIN'S REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION. THE COUNCIL ALSO AUTHORIZED THE NEW DMC SECRETARIAT, WHICH WAS ELECTED AT THE MEETING, AND THE PARTY'S KNESSET FACTION TO DECIDE ON THE BASIS OF THE LIKUD'S REPLY WHETHER TO RESUME COALITION TALKS. THE COUNCIL RESERVED TO ITSELF, HOWEVER, THE FINAL DECISION ON JOINING A COALITION.

4. ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL, YADIN HAD DECLARED "ONLY IF WE FEEL WE ARE PARTNERS AND CAN DECISIVELY INFLUENCE MATTERS" WILL THE DMC JOIN A LIKUD GOVERNMENT. REFLECTING THE OPPOSITION TO DAYAN OF THE SHINUI ELEMENT IN THE DMC, AMNON RUBENSTEIN BITTERLY CRITICIZED DAYAN AND HIS RECORD, MAINTAINING THAT NEITHER THE ISRAELI PUBLIC NOR FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS WILL BE ABLE TO BELIEVE WHAT HE SAYS. HOWEVER, THE CONSENSUS OF THE COUNCIL FAVORED CONTINUATION OF TALKS WITH THE LIKUD PROVIDED A SATISFACTORY RESPONSE TO THE CLARIFICATION REQUEST WAS OBTAINED.

5. COMMENT: REQUESTING CLARIFICATION OF WHAT EVERYONE RECOGNIZED AS AN AMBIGUOUS LIKUD STATEMENT FITTED NICELY INTO THE DMC'S TACTICS OF DRAWING OUT THE TALKS. HOWEVER, BEGIN'S REPLY , WHICH WAS APPORVED BY THE LIKUD EXECUTIVE, APPEARS SUFFICIENTLY FORTHCOMING. IT SHOULD PAVE THE WAY FOR RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN ANY EVENT, THE BALL IS BACK IN THE DMC'S COURT. END COMMENT.

6. THE NEW DMC 13-MAN SECRETARIAT IS HEADED BY YADIN, FOLLOWED BY THE NEXT FOUR NAMES ON THE PARTY'S KNESSET LIST (RUBENSTEIN, AMIT, TAMIR, AND ZOREA). THE EIGHT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT WERE CHOSEN FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP.

7. A DMC CONTACT CHARACTERIZED THE NEW SECRETARIAT AS HAWKISH, POINTING OUT THAT ONLY RUBENSTEIN AND TWO OTHERS ARE EX-SHINUI PEOPLE. SHE SAW NO TREND APPARENT YET IN THZ COUNCIL ON WHETHER TO JOIN THE COALITION. ACCORDING TO HER, THE CHANCES ARE "50-50."

8. MEANWHILE, ARIK SHARON'S SHLOMZION PARTY WITH ITS TWO KNESSET SEATS FORMALLY JOINED THE LIKUD ON MAY 30. THE ANNOUNCEMENT CONTAINED NO MENTION OF A CABINET SEAT FOR SHARON WHO REPORTEDLY SUPPORTS THE CHOICE OF DAYAN

AS FOREIGN MINISTER. THE JERUSALEM POST QUOTES SHARON
AS SAYING "THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT A GOVERNMENT IS
BEING FORMED ON THE BASIS OF NATIONAL INTERESTS, AND
NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PARTY KEY."
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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